United Nations E/C.2/2001/2/Add.6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 November 2000
English
Original: English/French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2001 regular session

Quadrennial reports, 1995-1998 submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Association of Third World Studies

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Introduction

The Association of Third World Studies (ATWS) has enjoyed consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1995. The following report will first review ATWS's four objectives as an organization and will then discuss the activities of its two New York representatives. In addition, the report will describe the activities of two ATWS members who worked with two United Nations human rights tribunals and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

Objectives of ATWS

The objectives of ATWS include: (a) providing ongoing open forums to discuss and analyse third world problems and developments from different perspectives or viewpoints, and thus improve understanding of the underlying forces shaping the destiny of the third world and impacting global developments; (b) promoting professional development through the encouragement of research, publication and teaching in the area of third world studies; (c) facilitating professional and social communication by sponsoring activities that will bring together persons interested in third world studies; and (d) promoting the enhancement of the quality of life of third world peoples through formal association with private institutions involved with development in the third world. Our web site, at www.wiu.edu/users/mfmbk/atws/index.htm, includes a posting of these objectives.

Membership of ATWS

In addition to a membership base of 334 individuals resident in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, ATWS also has 112 members located in the third world. Some of this membership is concentrated in large chapters, including that of Kenya with 43 members followed closely by Nigeria with 25 and India with another 14 members. The international component of our membership has grown in the 1995-1998 period and we anticipate further expansion in the future as we will begin to hold our annual meeting at international venues.

Participation in United Nations activities

ATWS's first representative, who served from early 1996 to may 1998, had a background working with the United Nations Observer Mission to the South African elections and was the Geneva representative for the Minority Rights Group of London from 1991 to 1994. In 1996/97 he attended as many Thursday morning NGO briefings by the Department of Public Information as his schedule allowed. He also attempted to elicit ATWS member input and at the organization's annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, in October 1997 he made a special United Nations presentation to the membership.

In May 1998 that representative relinquished his role and was replaced by another member, Dr. Ihonvbere, who is with the Ford Foundation. During the remainder of 1998 our new representative obtained his credentials and met with

ATWS members to connect them to the United Nations. For example, at its October 1998 annual meeting in Durham, North Carolina, he reported to the ATWS's Executive Council and an advisory committee structure was created to facilitate coordination between the representative and the ATWS membership. Dr. Ihonvbere continues in his position as ATWS representative to the Economic and Social Council.

In addition, two other ATWS members have been especially active in United Nations activities. In June and July 1995 the first member, a specialist in international human rights law at the University of Florida Law School, worked for Ms. Dorothée de Sampayo Garrido-Nijgh of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and corresponded with General Assembly President Diego Freitas do Amaral. One result of his activity was the article "The conflict of the former Yugoslavia in the courts", published in the *Anthropology of East Europe Review* (spring 1996). Later, in 1997 through 1998 and at the invitation of Registrar Agwu U. Okali, his services were tapped by the International Tribunal for Rwanda for legal research. Results of this association include the article "Expanding the frontiers of humanitarian law: the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda" published in the *Florida Journal of International Law* in 1997 and a new book, *Justice in Africa: Rwanda's Genocide, Its National Courts and UN Criminal Tribunal*, published in England in 2000.

Meanwhile, the second member, from the Department of Sociology of Syracuse University, began her continuing association with United Nations activities as the ATWS representative to the second session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF II) held in Geneva from 24 August to 4 September 1998.

2. European Women's Lobby

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

General aims and developments

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest coalition of women's NGOs in the European Union, coordinating more than 2,700 women's organizations. EWL lobbies the European institutions to improve the status of women and plays an active role at European level by taking positions on the European Union's policies and ensuring that women's perspectives are integrated into all European policies and programmes.

Since 1995, the EWL budget has been increased from 450,000 euros to 667,000 euros. Owing to the enlargement of the European Union, there are three new member States and women's organizations from these countries (Sweden, Finland and Austria) consequently joined EWL. In 1997, EWL obtained consultative status with the Council of Europe.

Participation in the United Nations Economic and Social Council

In 1995, EWL attended the meeting of the preparatory committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in New York. Moreover EWL participated actively in the Conference itself in Beijing. Its delegation was composed of the EWL Executive, Secretary-General and several members of the

EWL secretariat. The EWL delegation ran an information stand during the Conference, organized European caucuses and attended the official plenary.

In 1996, the Secretary-General and the policy officer for the Beijing conference attended the session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

In 1997, the Secretary-General and President of EWL again attended the session of the Commission. The President delivered a statement on women in the economy in the plenary. The Beijing policy officer attended the Commission for Social Development and gave a statement in plenary.

In 1998, EWL sent a delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 1998. It was composed of the EWL Executive, Secretary-General, several members of the EWL secretariat and the experts from the EWL European Observatory on Violence against Women. EWL attended most of the Commission's official meetings and NGO caucuses and organized a one-day conference on violence against women on 6 March at United Nations Headquarters. Ms. Fréchette, the Deputy Secretary-General, representatives of the EU presidency and representatives of other NGOs and of the Council of Europe participated in this conference.

Activities during the reporting period

EWL met the delegations of the respective presidencies of the European Union, which represented the European Union at the Commission on the Status of Women.

EWL published the proceedings and conclusions of the sessions of the Commission in order to inform its members and regularly gave out information about activities related to women at the United Nations.

During the last three years, EWL prepared position papers on the critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action that were under discussion in the Commission.

EWL coordinated the actions of European women's NGOs by organizing regular caucuses during the sessions of the Commission.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

EWL maintained informal contacts with UNESCO and WHO for exchange of information and research and during the drafting of the EWL positions papers.

The consultation and research with the World Bank in relation to its study on the hidden health costs of violence against women was important. This was a major contribution for the EWL study entitled "Unveiling the hidden data on domestic violence against women in the European Union".

One member of its board of administration permanently represents EWL at the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) in Vienna.

The EWL regularly distributed United Nations vacancy announcements within its network, in order to promote women's participation in the United Nations system.

Other relevant activities

In February 1996 EWL organized an NGO follow-up conference in Brussels on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. EWL produced for this occasion a document entitled "European NGO Platform for Action for the European Union" based on an analysis of the Beijing Platform for Action and the regional platform of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

A meeting between the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the EWL President and Secretary-General took place in March 1997. Also in 1997, United Nations radio interviewed the EWL Vice-President.

Documents prepared by the European Women's lobby in relation to United Nations activities

1 March 1995	EWL position paper on the draft platform for action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995, prepared for discussions at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
5 March 1995	A European women's agenda for social development — position paper of the EWL on the draft declaration and draft programme for action of the 1 February 1995 World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995
13 July 1995	Comments and suggested amendments to the draft platform for action, 15 May 1995, addressed to the member States of the EU
September 1995	A guide for women to the Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum
October 1995	European women in partnership — en route to the 21st century. Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995, NGO Forum '95, Huairo, China. Report on the European Women's Lobby Activities in China
October 1995	EWL Newsletter: "Back from China"
January 1996	Proposal for an NGO platform for action for the EU — towards the gender contract — implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
9-10 February 1996	EWL follow-up seminar on the Beijing Conference
April 1996	Towards the gender contract — implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
July 1996	Habitat II — the women's view (EWL report/position on the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul, June 1996)
Autumn 1996	EWL Special Edition Newsletter: "Post-Beijing — one year later"

December 1996	The European Women's Lobby's Guide for Women's Organizations on the Commission on the Status of Women, forty-first session, 10-21 March 1997
December 1997	Guide for the Use of the European Convention on Human Rights
March 1997	Documentation pack on the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Social Development (CSD) of the United Nations, including a report on CSD and an EWL statement on women and decision-making
March 1997	Documentation pack on the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), including a report of CSW, a list of participants at the European women's caucus, and EWL statements on women and the economy and on accountability, transparency and commitments
2 March 1998	Consultation of NGOs concerning proposals to Governments in relation to women's human rights, violence against women, the girl child and women in armed conflict
1995-1998	Bi-monthly EWL newsletters

3. France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

The purpose of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, founded in 1986, is to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of individual and collective freedoms throughout the world and to help women and men working for those goals, to help disadvantaged creative minds wherever they may be to bring their ideas to fruition, to provide support to all those who by virtue of their social status or environment risk destitution and abject poverty.

France Libertés has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and makes regular submissions to the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights during their respective sessions in March, April and August of each year in Geneva. France Libertés also participates in conferences, seminars and meetings organized during those sessions by both the Commission and non-governmental organizations.

In 1994, France Libertés participated in the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights and presented oral reports on Western Sahara, in cooperation with Pax Christi International, as well as on Iraq, East Timor, Tibet and Colombia, in association with that country's human rights coordination organization, during which we called the wife of a man who had disappeared to testify. In August 1994, France Libertés participated in meetings of the Subcommission devoted to the fight against discriminatory measures and the protection of minorities.

France Libertés also contributed to preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and to efforts to increase awareness of its objectives and

participated in the Conference. The Conference proposed that the General Assembly should appoint a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

France Libertés helped to organize several concerts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to assist various Latin American associations (Violeta Parra Foundation of Chile, Children for Music from Bolivia, Chile and Argentina, and the Pastoral Association from Colombia).

In 1995, France Libertés participated in the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. Our organization made submissions on several agenda items: East Timor, Western Sahara, Tibet, Colombia, Iraq, Togo, Mauritania and, together with the national branch of the International Federation of ACAT (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture), Peru. In August, our active work in the Subcommission in Geneva took the form of persistent efforts to increase awareness of the situation in Turkey, Peru and Colombia. As a result, after numerous meetings, and after much negotiation between experts and governments, France Libertés and a large number of NGOs succeeded in bringing a resolution on Colombia before the Subcommission for the first time. As was the case for Turkey, a decision was adopted on freedom of speech. With regard to Peru, we persuaded the Chairman of the Subcommission to make a declaration on impunity in Peru. We also made submissions on China regarding the situation of the dissident Harry Wu as well as Bahrain, Turkey, Iraq, Peru, Kosovo, ex-Yugoslavia, and the Caucasus.

In 1996, as in previous years, France Libertés participated in the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. We made presentations on agenda items relating to Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Colombia. At the Subcommission, in August, we made a submission on Brazil during which Ms. Jeanete Capeberibe, Deputy from the State of Amapa, spoke on behalf of France Libertés to discuss the problem of the massacres of landless peasants in that country, as well as presentations on the situation of the Kurds in Iraq and on East Timor.

France Libertés also participated in the meeting of the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In 1997, France Libertés participated in the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and made presentations on East Timor, Western Sahara, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Colombia and Peru. In August, we also participated in the Subcommission and made presentations on Colombia, Turkey, the Comoros, Peru, Bahrain, China, Myanmar, Mauritania, Iran and Israel.

A representative of France Libertés visited Colombia in February 1997 to participate in the international NGO preparatory meeting for the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

France Libertés is also a regular participant in meetings, seminars and events organized by UNESCO.

With regard to United Nations resolutions:

(a) In our many submissions on human rights and individual and collective freedoms to the Governments of various countries, we refer to the Charter of the United Nations and its various resolutions, where warranted, to remind the

authorities of the need to respect these principles enunciated therein. We made many submissions but will not list them in this short report;

(b) Ms. Danielle Mitterrand, President of France Libertés, had informal meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and took the opportunity to raise the issue of the human rights situation in several countries;

(c) The resolutions and role of the United Nations are frequently referred to in various contexts in the Foundation's quarterly publication, *Lettre de la Fondation*.

The efforts of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations do not always lead to rapid action and satisfactory results on the part of the Organization. It is also true that NGOs have less and less time to make their presentations: currently only five minutes rather than 10 in the past. In addition, States have a right of reply to NGO reports, but the NGOs have no such right. It is, however, important that NGOs be present in the Commission and Subcommission because, to some extent, they complement their work. Indeed, although the United Nations has greater material and political resources, it is not as present in the field as non-governmental organizations, which are in constant contact with local conditions and populations and can transmit any complaints they receive. NGOs also can and must highlight inconsistencies in actions taken by the United Nations as well as remind it of its obligations.

4. International Driving Tests Committee

(Special consultative status granted in 1983)

Aims and purposes of the organization

The objectives of the International Driving Tests Committee (CIECA), which is non-profit making, are mainly scientific in scope and are intended to contribute to road safety, as influenced by the content and organization of examinations within the framework of the acquisition of a driving licence. To this end, the association shall have the following objectives:

(a) The continuous exchange of data amongst its membership relating to both the content and the organization of driving tests;

(b) Setting up studies and research the aim of which is to improve driving education and driving tests;

(c) The organization of studies and research on subjects connected with same;

(d) Cooperation regarding the subjects relating to the establishment of a European driving permit and the consequences thereof;

(e) Collaboration with the institutions of the European Union and the public authorities or private institutions, whether national or international in scope, having jurisdiction in these areas;

(f) The development of tested propositions for the improvement of road safety.

Increase of geographical membership. In the period 1995-1998, the number of members remained stable. In 1998, CIECA has as many countries represented as in 1994. Some countries have more than one member (e.g. Germany, United Kingdom)

1994: 24 countries

1995: 25 countries

1996: 26 countries

1997: 20 countries

1998: 24 countries

Substantial changes in sources of funding. A membership fee was introduced in 1996. CIECA received funding from the European Commission for carrying out studies.

CIECA is affiliated with the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

With regard to cooperation with United Nations bodies, CIECA, participates in the sessions of the working party on road traffic safety of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

In 1994, CIECA signed a contract with the Commission of the European Communities in order to draw up a "Guide on driver licensing" which would, amongst other things, contain the following elements: definitions of the categories and subcategories of vehicles; minimum ages permitted for driving each category; requirements concerning knowledge, driving skills and driving behaviour; addresses of the authorities responsible for taking the exams, for issuing a driving licence, etcetera. The Guide is available in German ("*Handbuch über den Führerschein*") and French ("*Guide sur le permis de conduire*"), as well as English.

Furthermore, CIECA was requested to carry out detailed studies and to present recommendations concerning the following aspects:

The theory and practical test for category B licences;

The training of the examiner;

The procedure and the periodicity of the medical examination.

Several workshops on these subjects were organized to discuss a best practice solution in all of these fields. The number of members attending these workshops increased during the studies as it became clear that the work that was in progress was important and interesting. At the workshop on the practical test for categories B and B+E, for example, 22 out of 30 members were present. The reports of these studies were presented to the European Commission in November 1998.

Conferences, symposia and workshops 1995-1998

Twenty-seventh annual CIECA Conference, 8-11 May 1995, Madrid, Spain;

CIECA workshop on the contents and periodicity of the medical examination (1), 21-22 March 1996, Amsterdam, the Netherlands;

CIECA workshop on the withdrawal of the driving licence 25-26 March 1996, Stockholm, Sweden;

CIECA workshop on the training of the driving examiner, 28-29 March 1996, Stuttgart, Germany;

Twenty-eighth annual CIECA Conference, 20-22 May 1996, Belfast, United Kingdom;

CIECA workshop on the theoretical test, 16-18 March 1997, Nottingham, United Kingdom;

Twenty-ninth annual CIECA Conference, 30 May 1997, Monaco;

CIECA workshop on the practical test, 29/30 September-1 October 1997, Vienna, Austria;

CIECA workshop on contents and periodicity of the medical examination (2), 20-21 November 1997, Amsterdam, the Netherlands;

CIECA workshop on the practical test for category B, 5-6 March 1998, Lile, France;

Thirtieth annual CIECA Conference, 25-28 May 1998, Tunis, Tunisia;

CIECA workshop on visual acuity, 12-13 November 1998, Brussels, Belgium.

Publications and proceedings 1995-1998

CIECA Forum, Magazine of the Commission internationale des examens de conduite automobile, Fontijn H. (ed.), 1st edition in 1998.

Conference proceedings of the 27th Conference, Madrid, 9-11 May 1995.

Conference proceedings of the 28th Conference, Belfast, 20-22 May 1996.

Conference proceedings of the 29th CIECA Conference, Monaco, 30 May 1997.

Conference proceedings of the 30th Conference, Tunis, 25-28 May 1998.

Groot, H., Jannssen A., *Procedure and periodicity of the medical examination*, The Hague, 1998. Available in English, French and German.

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Ruyters, H., ter Braak, M., Groot, H., *Training of the examiner*, 2nd edition, Brussels, 1998. Available in English, French and German.

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5. International Tunnelling Association

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Organization

Aims of the Association

The aims of the International Tunnelling Association (ITA) are to encourage planning of the use of the subsurface and to promote preparatory investigations for subsurface constructions and the design, construction and maintenance of such buildings by collecting information thereon and studying questions related thereto. The Association fulfils its mission by the exchange of information among its various member national organizations (for instance, exchange of knowledge from highly industrialized to developing countries), by holding meetings, public or not, at intervals by organizing and coordinating studies and experiments, and by publishing proceedings, reports and documents.

Evolution of the geographic representation since 1996

The number of "member States" has increased from 42 to 47: new members are Saudi Arabia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Ukraine, Singapore and the Islamic Republic of Iran. One country, Croatia, has been expelled.

The number of "affiliate members" has increased from 206 (81 corporate and 125 individual members) to 271 (85 corporate and 186 individual members); 2 countries that are not yet full members have the status of "affiliate members": Costa Rica and Lebanon.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association has supported actions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); actions for promoting an underground alternative to crossing the Strait of Gibraltar; acknowledgement of the Association's actions, notably by the ECE; organization of joint ECE-ECA-ITA seminars in Tarifa (Spain), Vienna (Austria) and Rabat (Morocco).

The Association organized in March 2000 in Lausanne, Switzerland, a seminar on fire safety in transport tunnels; representatives from ECE and from several NGOs (the World Road Association (PIARC), the International Railway Union and the International Union for Public Transport) participated in this seminar.

Transfer of technology

ITA sponsored and participated in the following congresses:

In Austria in April 1997 on the topic "Tunnels for people";

In Brazil in April 1998 on the topic "Tunnels and metropolises";

In Norway in May/June 1999 on the topic "Challenges for the 21st century";

In South Africa in May 2000 on the topic "Tunnels under pressure".

These congresses attracted between 500 and 1,000 international participants.

ITA sponsored and participated in the following workshops:

(a) In 1996: in Sandness (Norway), conference on immersed and floating tunnels; Istanbul, HABITAT II; Sydney, conference organized by the Australian group; Cracow, conference of the Polish group; Turin (Italy), meeting of the General Council of the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM); Brasov, second international congress organized by the Romanian group; Chambéry, workshops of the French Association; Turin, meeting of the Road Tunnel Committee of the World Road Association; Paris, congress of the Centre d'etudes d'information et de formation pour les ingénieurs de la construction et de l'industrie (CEIFICI) on accidents in tunnels; Brussels, workshops on the programme of the European Union on transport infrastructures; and conferences in Slovenia, Russia, Taiwan and Germany;

(b) In 1997: in Genoa (Italy), the NO DIG conference; Cork (Ireland), conference on immersed tunnels; Lillehammer (Norway), the EUROCK symposium; Athens, Executive meeting of the International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG); Singapore, symposium on "fibre concrete"; Bangkok, "Asia Tunnelling" seminar; Moscow, seminar on investments in underground projects in Russian cities organized by the Russian national group; Lyon (France), ceremonies to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Association française des travaux en souterrain (AFTES); Basel, (Switzerland), international conference on underground works in difficult conditions; Montreal, seventh congress of Associated Research Centres for the Urban Underground Space (ACUUS); Prague, seminar organized by the Czech national group, Hamburg, the "NO DIG Germany" conference; Slovenia, international seminar on underground technology in soft ground; Tokyo, opening of the crossing of Tokyo Bay; Buenos Aires, seminar on planning of underground construction;

(c) In 1998: in Madrid, seminar on safety; Singapore, seminar organized by the members of the future Singapore national group; twenty-fifth anniversary of the Swiss national group; congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (ABSE); Bratislava, Slovakian symposium on road tunnels; Stockholm, symposium organized by the Swedish national group; Lausanne (Switzerland), annual meeting of the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT); Kuala Lumpur, Second Asia Tunnelling meeting; Lisbon, the World Mining Congress; St. Petersburg (Russia), congress organized by the Russian national group; Vancouver (Canada), meeting of the Council of the International Association of Geosynthetics Installers (IAGI); Malmö (Sweden), meeting of the PIARC working group on fire; Basel, Sika seminar, Ljubliana, meeting on the construction of tunnels in difficult conditions; Salzburg (Austria), first "Tunnel Day" of the Austrian national group; Prague, fourth ISTT national conference; Basel, the International Tunnelling Conference congress on risk reduction;

(d) In 1999: in Cairo, congress organized by the Egyptian national group; the Netherlands, the INFRA TUNNEL conference; Tokyo, meeting of the Japan Tunnelling Association; Melbourne (Australia), tenth conference of the Australian national committee; conference organized by the Slovakian group; conference organized by the Russian group; conference organized by the Korean group; ACUUS congress in Xian (China); Brazil, Pan-American conference on soils and geotechnics; meeting on safety in tunnels in operation organized by the European Union; Budapest, the NO DIG conference; Kuala Lumpur, PIARC congress; Greece,

conference on motorways construction; conference organized by the French group; workshop of the Belgian national group; Bangkok, fortieth anniversary of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) conference organized by the German national group; conference organized by the Norwegian group; twenty-fifth anniversary of the Italian national group.

The ITA working groups permanently in operation are: Research, Contractual Practices, Subsurface Planning, Health and Safety in Underground Works, Maintenance and Repair of Underground Structures, Immersed and Floating Tunnels, Shotcrete Use, Direct and Indirect Advantages of the Achievement of Underground Works, Mechanization of Excavation, Environment, Quality, Long Tunnels at Great Depth.

The web site of the Association (*http://www.ita-aites.org*) was created in 1998; it includes over 300 pages. In 1999 it received 285,000 successful requests from 10,000 persons from 80 countries.

The Association has opened on its web site a glossary of terms used in underground works.

Since 1996, the Association has prepared and published the following international recommendations in its journal, *Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology* (TUST): Safety in fire in underground works (vol. 13, No. 3); State of the art, ITA's position on types of agreements (vol. 11, No. 4); Immersed and floating tunnels — state of the art (vol. 12, No. 2); Health and safety in terms of shotcrete (vol. 11, No. 4); Underground Works and environment. Sixteen issues of TUST have been published since 1996.

The Association created in 1997 the internal newsletter "Tribune", addressed to the members of the Association. Four issues are published every year; each of these issues includes a Focus on a given country.

The present report was prepared for the ITA General Assembly 2000 and has been formally approved by the President.

6. Inter-Press Service International Association

(General consultative status granted in 1991)

Summary

The Inter-Press Service International Association (IPS) provided regular independent coverage of the role and activities of the United Nations, which reached the media, civil society and the international community. IPS worked with many United Nations agencies and bodies at the international and regional levels to strengthen communication, training and networking around United Nations conferences and events, as well as key issues.

Aims and purposes

IPS is an international, non-governmental organization whose aims are to contribute to development by promoting free communication, to strengthen South-

South and South-North flows of information and communication, and to involve in these flows actors representative of the whole of society.

IPS is organized as an international, non-profit association, with some 141 members from over 60 different countries. The members are journalists, professional communicators and individuals or bodies active in the field of information and communication.

The work of IPS is organized along two main lines of activity: IPS news agency and IPS projects. IPS news agency produces an independent, international news and feature service specialized in reporting global processes and issues of development in the countries of the South. The IPS news network covers over 112 countries and the service is distributed daily in nine different languages and regularly in 10 others to media, civil society and the international community with a daily output of around 112,000 words. IPS also carries out communication projects for training, information exchange and establishment of networks.

Participation in United Nations meetings

IPS regularly reported on the sessions and work of the Economic and Social Council, and provided extensive coverage of the General Assembly and of meetings and conferences of other United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies.

In addition, at the following United Nations conferences IPS published a special edition of its independent publication *Terra Viva* in tabloid newspaper or newsletter form:

World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, March 1995;

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995;

Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, June 1996;

International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, Leipzig, Germany, June 1996;

World Food Summit, Rome, November 1996;

United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, June 1998.

Special coverage was given to many other meetings, including:

UNDP regional launch of the Human Development Report, Jakarta, July 1996;

First Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, Singapore, 1996;

World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, August 1996;

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Manila, November 1997;

Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

IPS also actively participated in NGO meetings and forums during United Nations conferences and their preparatory sessions, both at Headquarters and outside New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IPS implemented information and communication projects with many United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies, including the following:

(a) With the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to strengthen the gender perspective in IPS news coverage through creating gender awareness among IPS correspondents, stringers and editors;

(b) With the United Nations Development Programme, to create awareness for sustainable development in Asia through the training of journalists and NGO communicators in 11 countries;

(c) With the United Nations Environment Programme, to promote sustainable development in Latin America by disseminating environmental information through the newspaper supplement *Tierramerica*;

(d) With the United Nations Development Programme, to strengthen information flows on Haitian issues in order to promote a democratic process in that country;

(e) With the United Nations Population Fund, to train African, Latin American and Caribbean journalists on reporting on population issues;

(f) With the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, to strengthen communication and journalistic capacities of the Conference secretariat in the run-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(g) With the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, to create awareness on the problem of drugs in Latin America through convening annual national seminars and training journalists, and a series of activities on drug control;

(h) With the United Nations Children's Fund, covering Bangladesh in the context of national reporting requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and communication and child rights in Uruguay;

(i) IPS designed and produced a booklet, "Cities & Citizens, The AP2000 Experience", under the project UNDP-AP2000;

(j) With the support of the International Programme for International Communications of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, IPS extended its weekly "Cities Bulletin" to the whole of Latin America;

(k) With FAO, to strengthen coverage of food and nutrition issues.

Other relevant activities

IPS bureaux and correspondents in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Rome and Nairobi reported on the work of the United Nations, its programmes, bodies and specialized agencies. IPS correspondents and stringers across the network reported on the impact of the work at field level.

UNHCR in supporting the poultry industry in Tuzla and in supplying over 1 million fresh eggs to displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in the region. Also, in 1995, the organization cooperated with UNHCR in renovating the intravenous fluid production facility at the State Hospital in Sarajevo.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Since 1997, UNICEF has supplied the organization's primary health care programme in southern Somalia with medicines, vaccines and equipment. Since 1996, the organization has also worked with UNICEF to provide safe drinking water and to prevent the spread of cholera in southern Somalia. During 1997 and 1998, UNICEF supplied the organization with 30,000 blankets and 4,000 jerricans for flood survivors in Somalia.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

From 1995 to 1998, the organization coordinated with FAO in distributing 4.9 million pounds of vegetable seeds, 1.8 million pounds of fertilizer and over 60,000 gardening tools to families and farmers in Bosnia. In 1998, the organization distributed 44,000 pounds of maize seed, supplied by FAO, to vulnerable family farmers in southern Somalia.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

In 1995 and 1996, the organization worked with UNESCO to arrange training seminars for teachers at schools supported by the organization in Somalia.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Department of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA/DHA)

In 1997, the organization provided a $20,000 grant to OCHA/DHA to provide educational materials to children and schools affected by an earthquake in north-eastern Iran.

United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)

In 1995, The Pakistani and Dutch battalions of UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina assisted the organization's food aid programmes there. The Pakistani battalion assisted in the preparation and distribution of fresh egg-and-jam sandwiches to displaced persons from Srebrenica; soldiers in the battalion also donated their bread rations. The Dutch battalion assisted in organizing and distributing canned meat to vulnerable groups in Tuzla.

8. National Council of German Women's Organizations

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

The Council is the federation of women's associations in Germany. It represents some 11 million women in Germany in 52 nationwide organizations. Since the last report of 1996 one additional association has become a member. The aims of the Council are the realization of the equal status of women in all parts of society, the promotion of democracy and international cooperation.

The Council attaches great importance to the work of the United Nations. Therefore, it has accredited permanent representatives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna. The sessions of the General Assembly in New York are attended by representatives from headquarters. During the reporting period the Council was also represented at the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 1996) and the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, March/April 1996). At the latter, the Council initiated meetings between NGOs and the German delegation at the Permanent Mission of Germany in Geneva, including the German Parliament Committee on Foreign and Humanitarian Affairs. Together with the Geneva-based NGOs, the Council made two oral statements, on violence against women and on the girl child.

The Council also attended the following:

(a) Annual session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (Geneva, April 1996); together with the ECE-NGO Working Group on Women the Council was successful in mainstreaming the gender perspective in all sectors and areas of ECE policies;

(b) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, June 1996);

(c) Third Committee of the General Assembly (New York, October 1996) during the debate on women's rights;

(d) Forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 1997); the Council was involved in the preparations of the Geneva-based NGOs for the discussions among all NGOs in New York which led to statements on the agreed conclusions concerning critical areas of concern IV.B, IV.F, IV.G and IV.K of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(e) Fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, March/April 1997);

(f) Sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, April/May 1997); owing to the Council's lobbying efforts the "Practical measures, strategies and activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice for the elimination of violence against women" became a useful tool for the practitioner of the rule of law to eliminate violence against women;

(g) Conference of United Nations Volunteers (Bonn, October 1997);

(h) Sessions of the Third Committee in October 1997 concerning women's rights;

(i) Forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 1998);

(j) Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, March/April 1998); the Council's representative made an oral statement on the violation of the human rights of Afghan women;

(k) Seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, April 1998); together with Vienna-based organizations of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Council submitted

a joint written statement on the agenda item on international cooperation in combating transnational crime;

(l) Forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 1999); together with the Vienna-based NGOs of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the Council submitted a joint written statement on item 3 (c) of the agenda on women's health, mental health, older women and strengthening national machineries;

(m) Fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, March/April 1999); the Council co-sponsored two oral statements with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women on the agenda items on women's rights and the rights of the child;

(n) Eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, April/May 1999); together with the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Council submitted a joint written statement on the agenda item on the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime;

(o) Since January 1999 the Council has attended all sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna. It has successfully lobbied delegations for women's human rights and for mainstreaming the gender perspective into the Convention and its three protocols.

The Council is a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO). In Geneva, it is a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and all its working groups, including the ECE Working Group on Women. In Vienna, it is a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and the Vienna Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Through these bodies the Council has lobbied the relevant United Nations secretariats, ILO and WHO.

In the national field, the Council lobbies the Government of Germany, Parliament and political parties for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Beijing Platform for Action. In this context the Council was very active in lobbying for the introduction of the principle of equality in the Amsterdam Treaty of the European Union, which was adopted in 1997.

The Council, through its Vienna-based representative, submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations during his visit to Vienna in May 1997 on the reform of the United Nations system, urging him to consider the gender perspective in the reform process.

The Council publishes a monthly magazine, inter alia, reporting on United Nations activities.

9. New Humanity

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Introduction

New Humanity is an international non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and represents the activities of four related organizations at the United Nations: New Humanity, Inc., New Families, Youth for a United World and Young for Unity. The purpose of these organizations, present in over 180 countries, is to improve the economic and social conditions of people in all societies according to the spirit of unity and solidarity inspired by the Focolare Movement. New Humanity, Youth for a United World, Young for Unity, New Families, and their affiliate, the Focolare Movement, were founded by Chiara Lubich in Italy beginning in 1943 and they have spread around the world. Since New Humanity received consultative status with the United Nations in 1987, membership has grown from 2 million to 2.5 million members and its publications and broadcasts reach an additional 2 million people. Funding continues to come primarily from the generosity of its members.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

On 12 February 1998, New Humanity presented a paper (E/CN.5/1998/NGO/4) at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Social Development on the positive contributions of the elderly to society in support of the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons. Four members of New Humanity attended the session from 10-19 February.

The International Bureau of Economy and Work (the Bureau), an institute of New Humanity, has been doing research on the Tobin Tax as a means of circumventing the present lack of regulation on speculative transactions in the international capital markets. This lack of regulation continues to affect the political and economic freedom of nations and reduces developing countries' ability to service their debt. The Bureau met with senior staff of the secretariat of the Commission for Social Development in 1998 to discuss the need for such controls; they were asked to write a paper, which is in progress. They have also met with analysts in the Commission regarding the Bureau's development of the Economy of Communion and Culture of Giving and to discuss the Bureau's work in sustainable development and management.

On 31 May 1999, the Bureau met again with staff of the Commission at a congress of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where the Bureau made a new proposal about using the revenues of a Tobin Tax to provide debt relief for developing countries.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare Movement, was awarded the 1996 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. She spoke of the work of the Movement and New Humanity at the award ceremony at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

New Humanity co-sponsored an international congress on the ageing in Rimini, Italy, in 1997 with Brigid Donelan, a representative of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, as a keynote speaker. The 1,100 participants, who were specialists in numerous disciplines, including medicine, the social sciences, engineering, urban planning, the physical sciences, government, politics and law, explored the theme set by the United Nations for the International Year of Older Persons: "A society for all ages". A video of the event was made available to the United Nations.

Other relevant activities

On 28 May 1997, Chiara Lubich spoke at United Nations Headquarters. The occasion was a symposium held in her honour by the World Conference on Religion and Peace and the Permanent Mission of the Observer for the Holy See to the United Nations. The title of her talk was "Toward a unity of nations and a unity of peoples". Ms. Gillian M. Sorensen, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations, conveyed a message from the Secretary-General to Ms. Lubich during the symposium. Following the symposium, Ms. Lubich met with Dr. Kieran Prendergast, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

In parallel to the work done by the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere to bring peace between Christians and Muslims, Ms. Lubich has made a contribution by promoting and participating in Muslim-Christian dialogue. On 19 May 1997, she spoke at the Malcolm Shabazz mosque in Harlem, New York City, the first Caucasian Christian woman to do so, and has continued to promote dialogue between Muslims and Christians in other parts of the world. Over 3,000 people participated in this meeting in Harlem with the American Muslim Mission. A similar meeting was later held in Castelgondolfo, Italy, attended by Muslims from various countries. Similar dialogues have taken place with Jewish people, Buddhists and members of other faiths.

One of New Humanity's principal efforts in the last eight years was entitled "Economy of communion in freedom". Through this programme, 651 businesses and 74 home projects contributed one third of their profits to people in need. Aside from collaborating with the poor to help meet their most basic needs, those in business and those in need represent a part of our human nature that seeks to give rather than have or acquire belongings. This tendency towards a culture of giving draws out the basic human compassion for others who suffer because of economic and social hardships. Another one third of the profits of these businesses supports education programmes to help people learn how to grow and prosper in a culture of giving. The final third of the profits remains with the business to support its growth. Details on this programme have been shared with the Commission for Social Development and the United Nations community at annual conferences held at the United Nations Church Center.

New Humanity and New Families manage a programme called "Adoption at a distance" which provides financial assistance to 10,000 children through more than 65 projects in 38 countries. Some of these projects are implemented in conjunction with United Nations agencies.

New Humanity, New Families and the Focolare Movement worked with the United Nations in Albania to fund, manage, and support a Kosovo refugee camp during the fighting. New Humanity provided housing and personal care for over

1,000 refugees. Local members of New Humanity provided humanitarian services and funding while members abroad collected large sums of money to support their efforts.

New Humanity sponsored an international congress on art in Castelgondolfo which was attended by artists in various fields including music, painting, acting, opera, movie production, animated films and sculpture, plus related fields such as industrial design and many others. Over 1,700 people from five continents participated. The congress aimed to recognize ways to further greater unity in the world through the arts.

Articles published in support of United Nations programmes

Examples of such articles published in the Movement's magazine, *Living City* are:

1995 International Year of Tolerance, May 1995;

Words That Matter — Mr. Kofi Annan speaks on "The Challenge of Diversity", July 1998;

Articles on the UNDP work to rebuild Somalia and the UNESCO "Memory of the world" project, April 1998.

10. Planetary Society

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

The Planetary Society is a non-profit public membership organization whose mission is to inspire the people of earth to explore other worlds and seek other life — through research, education and public participation. The Society has approximately 100,000 members in more than 140 countries. The Society has members in North America (approximately 85,000), Europe (approximately 8,000), Central and South America (approximately 3,000), Asia (approximately 3,000) and in various countries in other regions.

The Society is funded by its members through annual dues and voluntary donations. Except for some few isolated events, there is no funding from Government or aerospace industry sources. The Society has been an NGO in consultative status with both the Economic and Social Council and with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The Society has been an active NGO member through correspondence and connections with United Nations staff and other NGOs but has not been a participant at major meeting of either the Council or the Committee. We sent a representative to one subcommittee meeting of COPUOS several years ago.

However, the Society has been a major sponsor and participant in the United Nations/European Space Agency workshops on basic space science. The Society has helped organize, provided material for and arranged participation in every one of these conferences for the past seven years. The Society provided funds to assist the conduct of the workshops with direct cash assistance to enable travel and speaker attendance and in-kind assistance with programme materials.

The Society has also co-sponsored two technical conferences in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs — one a workshop on interstellar flight and the other a meeting on near-earth objects. We have worked closely with the staff of the Office in shaping the appropriate treatment of that subject as an agenda item for United Nations meetings.

The Society also was a major contributor to and participant at the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space UNISPACE III, in Vienna. Two workshops were conducted there — one about Mars exploration and the other about near-earth objects. In addition, the Society participated in the Space Generation Forum.

Reports from the space research workshops of the last seven years, the technical conferences and UNISPACE III have been published and distributed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in print and electronically.

11. Trickle Up Program

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Introduction

The mission of the Trickle Up Program is to reduce poverty through micro-enterprise development. Founded in 1979 as a non-profit organization, Trickle Up has helped over 350,000 entrepreneurs start or expand over 73,500 micro-enterprises in 115 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas (including the United States) and Europe. Of these businesses, 30,535 were started during the reporting period (1995-1998). Trickle Up targets the poorest, including women-headed households, refugees, displaced people, returnees, unemployed youth, families affected by war or major natural disaster, and disadvantaged ethnic minorities. The Program provides seed capital in the form of conditional grants and business training material to families or groups of three or more people, through local partner agencies which provide development services to people of low income in rural or urban communities.

The Trickle Up Program is a member of InterAction, an umbrella group of private voluntary organizations in the United States, which is based in Washington, D.C. Trickle Up is also a member of SEEP (Small Enterprise Education and Promotion Network), which is also based in Washington, D.C. and dedicated to building capacity among micro-enterprise practitioners.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and United Nations conferences

Trickle Up is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and is represented annually at meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Executive Director and Deputy Director for Program conducted a workshop on micro-enterprise at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The Executive Director represented Trickle Up at the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen in 1996. In August 1999, the President of Trickle Up attended UNDP's Global Forum on Development in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In May 1995, the Trickle Up Program was represented on the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation which met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 1995. Trickle Up's Deputy Director for Program presented a paper entitled "Promoting micro-enterprise start-up ventures of poor entrepreneurs". The report of the Panel is contained in United Nations document A/50/501.

During the reporting period Trickle Up entered into collaboration with UNDP, which continues to this day, in Liberia, Uganda and Malawi. In 1998 Trickle Up began long-term collaboration with UNDP in Kenya, the Central African Republic and Rwanda. These collaborations involve the participation of United Nations Volunteers (UNV), funded by UNDP, to coordinate or implement the programme in all of the countries mentioned except Kenya. In Liberia and Uganda, UNDP has also provided matching grants for micro-finance. In Liberia, TUP-UNDP collaboration has helped start 2,000 micro-businesses among displaced people and their families. Reference to Trickle Up's partnerships with UNDP and UNV has been made in the organization's annual reports for 1997 and 1998. The TUP-UNDP partnership in Liberia was featured in the *Trickle Up Program 1995 Global Report*, as well as in the *Trickle Up Program Newsletter* of September 1995 (vol. 15, No. 2) and the fall 1998 issue (vol. 18, No. 2). In addition, Trickle Up's partnership with UNDP to date has served 200 businesses in Malawi and 300 in Uganda.

In Asia, Trickle Up collaborated with United Nations Volunteers in Indonesia and Nepal. The Program served leprosy-affected villagers through a cost-sharing partnership with UNDP in Myanmar. This collaboration was featured in the *Trickle Up Program Newsletter* of September 1996 (vol. 16, No. 2).

In 1996, the Trickle Up Program began a collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as part of a research project in Nepal and Uganda, to compare micro-loans with conditional grants in terms of their impact on beneficiaries and costs. The findings on the Nepal project will be available shortly and will be disseminated during a meeting convened by ILO in Kathmandu on 16 August 1999.

Other relevant activities

Trickle Up supports the goals of the Microcredit Summit (Washington, D.C., 2-4 February 1997) with respect to providing micro-finance to the poorest.

12. United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Preliminary note

Since the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation was granted consultative status only in June 1995, this report includes activities subsequent to that date, at least with regard to the Agency's direct and formal participation in meetings organized within the United Nations framework.

Since being founded in 1984, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation has made no changes to the objectives set out in its by-laws, and its

general principles are the same as those described in the statement of intent included in its initial application. On the other hand, while maintaining the same principles, it has broadened its scope of action by creating new internal structures which have allowed it to make its services available to more individuals and legal persons, in other words to the general community, in a universalist spirit, in all areas directly or indirectly involving issues of concern to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Accordingly, it has recently established a "Secrétariat international permanent d'assistance, de représentation et de suivi" (SIPARS).

The Agency currently has branches in 110 countries.

The Agency has played an active role in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the 1997 Earth Summit II special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 and has cooperated with the ECE Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT), as well as the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) in issues relating to it.

It has cooperated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the plan for exchanges of information in the area of publications such as the magazine *Coopération Internationale*, and newsletters.

It has undertaken studies and investigations and promoted development projects for various developing countries: (a) in Senegal, in cooperation with the Government, the creation of a system of water purification micro-stations to provide drinking water to the outskirts of cities, smaller cities and rural villages; (b) in Tunisia, projects on the treatment and use of industrial wastewater in the context of agricultural development, the education sector, the creation of a foundation to assist in the start-up of small projects for young people without a diploma; (c) in Benin, computer training centre for senior managers; (d) in Mali, a cultural centre; (e) in Argentina, a low-cost housing programme in the Morion/Buenos Aires region. Other projects included in a general programme are currently under review, in particular in the fields of the environment, low-cost housing, hygiene and health.

In order to carry out these activities, the Agency has created a number of specialized commissions, subcommissions, committees, working groups and think tanks. The commission on nutrition and public health comprises more than 200 high-level international experts; the creation of the committee on the right to clean water was announced during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Eight new commissions are currently being created on the elderly and the disabled, awareness of the duties of men, family and youth, environment, society, etc.

Next 9 and 10 October will see the official launch of a programme to promote non-violence undertaken in cooperation with the International Fund for Non-Violence, which the Agency has agreed to sponsor. A ceremony at which several thousand people will be present will be held in New York in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, with the participation of well-known international personalities.

The Agency has just signed an agreement with a film production company for the preparation of 26-mm video cassettes on the urgent issues constantly facing the United Nations; the issues chosen are too numerous to be listed in this report. The

first cassette will be distributed next October on the occasion of the ceremony on non-violence.

The Agency's publications include communiqués on current events of special interest which are distributed to members and it intends to resume publication of the magazine *Génération Universelle*, which was distributed during the World Summit for Children.

Throughout 1996 and 1997, the Agency sought to promote the interests of peoples by issuing calls for communications on current issues and invitations to participate in international conferences through our good offices. This initiative produced positive results and will become our permanent policy. In the same spirit, the Agency has worked very hard for many months to create a major database to assist in answering any questions put to it, in particular with regard to the functioning of the United Nations system. The working group created for that purpose became operational at the beginning of the current year.

13. WorldWIDE Network — Women in Development and Environment

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

WorldWIDE was created under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1981 to: create a global network of women concerned about environmental issues; provide forums for women to demonstrate their environmental solutions and share information; demonstrate women's solutions in environmental management and protection of ecosystems; promote the integration of women's environmental perspectives in development policies; support women in natural resource programmes; and educate the public and policy makers on the linkages between women and natural resource management. WorldWIDE also now catalyses, develops and markets initiatives that support women and communities in environmental protection and sustainable development.

Since 1998, WorldWIDE has received an increase in funding from EarthVoice (the Humane Society of the United States) and in 2000, new support from the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development. WorldWIDE affiliates — in-country leaders and organizations — receive funding from a variety of national and international sources.

WorldWIDE regularly attends sessions of the General Assembly, Commission on Sustainable Development and Commission on the Status of Women and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) consultation meetings. WorldWIDE also attends conferences in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has created a women's working group there. Other WorldWIDE cooperation with United Nations bodies is either at the project level (i.e. GEF, UNDP, World Bank) or with Washington, D.C.-based United Nations representatives through the Alliance for United Nations Sustainable Development Programmes. The Alliance provides a forum for United Nations programmes/agencies to outreach to the Washington, D.C. community. Through the Alliance, and as a member of its

Steering Committee, WorldWIDE has helped raise awareness of United Nations programmes in Washington and regularly attends United Nations events.

During 1994 and 1995, WorldWIDE organized and then held environmental workshops for women at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. After the Conference, WorldWIDE co-sponsored a series of outreach events in Washington as a follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action. Between mid-1996 and mid-1997, WorldWIDE monitored progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action among Washington-based groups.

From mid-1997 to 1999 WorldWIDE: organized an international environmental focus group for women state legislators in the United States; organized grass-roots meetings on women and environment (Ghana, Argentina); created a women's climate change network (international/Bonn); was a catalyst for the establishment of a $1 million equity investment fund for women and environment (United States, Philippines); organized women's groups for Earth Day 2000; identified, developed and marketed women's projects to the international community (Jamaica, India, Ghana, Argentina, Romania, South Africa, Philippines); and supported coalitions in Washington, D.C. supporting the work of the United Nations.

Throughout this time, WorldWIDE representatives also met with delegates to the United Nations and United Nations agency staff in regard to specific country proposals coming from its international network. (A United Nations-related article published by WorldWIDE during this time can be found at *www.wia.usda.gov/issue3.pdf* — page 3.)

At the 1999 meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, WorldWIDE organized a briefing on United States funding of the United Nations in cooperation with the United Nations Association of the United States and the United States Committee for UNDP. During the year 2000, WorldWIDE attended the meetings in connection with the holding of the Millennium Summit.